
Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Friend

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to revisit milk labeling guidelines.

Whereas, In 1993, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of the animal drug recombinant bovine somatotropin (rbST) in lactating dairy cows to increase the production of marketable milk;

Whereas, After a thorough review, the FDA determined that rbST is safe and effective for dairy cows, that milk from rbST-treated cows is safe for human consumption, and that production and use of rbST does not have a significant impact on the environment;

20092903



Whereas, The use of rbST cannot be detected through laboratory testing because bovine somatotropin (bST) is a naturally occurring protein hormone produced in lactating dairy cows and supplemental rbST does not result in more bST found in the milk;

Whereas, Studies and arguments have been made as to whether the FDA findings are still true, which has resulted in some dairy processors marketing "rbST-free" milk for consumers;

Whereas, Currently, an issue is being raised regarding the truthfulness of the "rbST-free" statement on milk labels and whether this claim is misleading if there is no clinical data to prove such statements;

Whereas, In 1994 the FDA issued a guidance document to state regulatory agencies clarifying which milk labels are not misleading concerning the use of rbST by requiring that a disclaimer also be placed on the "rbST-free" label explaining there is no significant difference between milk treated with rbST and untreated milk;

Whereas, No FDA updates have been issued since 1994 despite the fact that states are struggling to determine which labeling requirements are acceptable since the consumer market for rbST-free milk has increased;

Whereas, Consternation and lawsuits have resulted in other states that have tried to address the misleading labeling issue on the state level, creating a patchwork of regulations from state to state;

Whereas, Indiana is not sheltered from this debate but is also unable to address the issue of truth-in-labeling alone since food labeling is governed by the Federal Interstate Commerce Act; and

Whereas, The dairy industry is a vital component in Indiana's agricultural economy; however, it is in the best interest of the state to receive guidance from the federal government rather than try to resolve the debate on its own:



Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges the
2 United States Food and Drug Administration to revisit the milk
3 labeling guidelines and address the contemporary issues that have
4 surfaced in various states surrounding the truthfulness of dairy labels.
5 The FDA must act quickly because consumers, dairy producers, and
6 dairy processors all have a stake in this important issue.

7 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
8 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the Indiana
9 Congressional delegation and the Commissioner of the FDA.

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HR 1545/DI 84+

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